

BEHAVIOR OF THAUMATOMYIA (= CHLOROPISCA) SPECIES (DIPTERA, CHLOROPIDAE).

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Thaumatomyia (= *Chloropisca*) *glabra* var. *bistriata* Wlk.—This fly was seen on sugar maple leaves in small colonies of six to twelve individuals on August 13 and 20, 1944, in Detroit, Michigan. The males would walk about fluttering their wings and swelling their terminal vesicles, dull-textured, semi-football-shaped organs at each side of the tip of the abdomen. On approaching another individual (? male) they would grapple with each other with their fore legs, rise up to an angle of 45° , and sometimes one of them would be overturned, pushed over the edge of the leaf, and finally fly away, not, however, without often coming back to renew the fray. The flies were very tame and one could get them to within a few inches of one's eyes without frightening them and even hold the leaf to keep it still.

No pairs were seen beginning copulation, but a few pairs were noticed retired to the branches. One pair remained *in copulo* for at least fifteen minutes.

One colony was seen on the same few leaves for at least two weeks. Small groups were also observed on leaves of box elder (*Acer negundo*) in Lapeer County, Michigan, on September 2, 1944, but they were inactive. No honeydew was seen in either instance.

Thaumatomyia parviceps Malloch.—On August 13, 1944, a group of *T. parviceps* was seen on one of the same trees on which *T. bistriata* was seen. These flies acted quite similarly to *T. bistriata* except that they would rise almost vertically on their hind legs, spar at each other with their fore legs, and sometimes fall into a "clinch" for a short time with their mouthparts apparently in contact.

No typical *T. glabra* Mg. were seen. *T. bistriata* specimens were fairly uniform and distinctly larger than the writer's series of *T. glabra*, which is taken frequently by sweeping low vegetation. In view of the above observations as well as the morphological uniformity of *T. bistriata*, the writer believes it desirable to consider it a distinct species.